

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OIC-02
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-----008115 211121Z /10

O R 211048Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5822
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: BILATERAL APPROACHES ON SOVIET TRIALS

STATE 179532

1. I CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER JABLONSKY JULY 20
AND MADE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL.
2. PREDICTABLY, JABLONSKY REPLIED THAT TRIALS WERE A
SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIR AND AS SUCH NOT TO BE DISCUSSED BY
"OUTSIDE AUTHORITIES," I.E. FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
HE WENT ON THAT IT WAS PROPER FOR MEDIA, BUT NOT GOVERNMENTS,
TO COMMENT ON COURT TRIALS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE NOTED
IN PASSING THAT LOCAL PRESS HAD COMMENTED ON ANDY YOUNG'S
POLITICAL PRISONERS STATEMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD PASS OUR
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VIEWS TO HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT DOUBTED THAT GOC WOULD INTERVENE
WITH USSR ON MATTER; HIS PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE
NOT RPT NOT TO INTERVENE.

3. JABLONSKY WENT ON THAT WESTERN OBSERVERS SEEM TO
THINK THAT A PERSON PUTS HIMSELF ABOVE THE LAW BY SIGNING
CHARTER 77 HERE OR JOINING THE WORKER'S DEFENSE LEAGUE IN

POLAND, BUT THAT WAS NOT THE CASE. CHARTER SIGNERS STILL HAVE TO OBEY THE LAW. HE WENT ON THAT ACTIONS OF SUCH GROUPS (AND, BY IMPLICATION, MY DEMARCHE) DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE, TO IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS OR COOPERATION.

4. WE THEN AT SOME LENGTH REHEARSED OUR OPPOSING VIEWS ON THE MEANING OF CSCE PRINCIPLES.

5. REFERRING TO JABLONSKY'S REMARK THAT IT WAS PROPER FOR MEDIA TO CRITICIZE DEVELOPMENTS DOMESTICALLY AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING TRIALS AND SIMILAR EVENTS, I GOT HIM TO ADMIT THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS "LEADING ELEMENT OF SOCIETY" HERE AND THAT ITS PAPER RUDE PRAVO REFLECTS THE OFFICIAL LINE, BUT HE INSISTED ITS WRITERS OCCASIONALLY MAKE MISTAKES AND SAY THINGS NOT OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED. HE HAD NO REPLY WHEN I ASKED WHETHER HIS COMMENT THAT FREEDOM FOR MEDIA TO CRITICIZE MEANT WESTERN JOURNALISTS WOULD NO LONGER BE REFUSED VISAS FOR WRITING CRITICALLY ABOUT CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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